

Intervention: Interventions for preventing tobacco sales to minors

Finding: Insufficient evidence to determine effectiveness

Potential partners to undertake the intervention:

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|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nonprofits or local coalitions | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Businesses or labor organizations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Schools or universities | <input type="checkbox"/> Media |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health care providers | <input type="checkbox"/> Local public health departments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State public health departments | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policymakers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitals, clinics or managed care organizations | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

Background on the intervention:

Successful restriction of young people's access to tobacco products could help prevent them from developing this addiction. Although young people perceive difficulties in obtaining cigarettes as a deterrent to tobacco use (Stanton 1993), poor compliance with access laws is well documented (Forster 1998). Furthermore, commercial sources of tobacco are not the only way in which young people obtain products (Emery 1999; Forster 1998; Harrison 2000). They may also get cigarettes from parents, siblings, friends, and by theft. Reducing access to commercial sources could lead to increased use of such sources. In determining policy it is important to know both how best to restrict access, and the likely effect of successful restriction on youth tobacco consumption.

Interventions aimed at preventing tobacco sales to minors are one commonly proposed method of reducing tobacco use among minors.

Findings from the systematic reviews:

Interventions with retailers can lead to large decreases in the number of outlets selling tobacco to youths. However, few of the communities studied in this review achieved sustained levels of high compliance. This may explain why there is limited evidence for an effect of intervention on youth perception of ease of access to tobacco, and on smoking behavior.

References:

Lantz PM, Jacobson PD, Warner KE, Wasserman J, Pollack HA, Berson J, Ahlstrom A. Investing in youth tobacco control: a review of smoking prevention and control strategies. *Tobacco Control* 2000; 9: 47-63.

Stead LF, Lancaster T. Interventions for preventing tobacco sales to minors. *The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2005, Issue 1. Art. No.:CD001497. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD001497.pub2